WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1. A method for searching a program guide database, comprising:

2   receiving one or more search criteria;

3   sending a request for a search along with the one or more search criteria to

4   a head end of an information distribution system; and

5   receiving one or more search results from the head end, and

6   wherein the program guide database is searched at the head end.

1   2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   displaying an interactive program guide (IPG) page having include therein

3   at least one received search result.

1   3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   highlighting a channel object on the displayed IPG page corresponding to

3   one received search result.

1   4. The method of claim 3, wherein the channel object is highlighted by

2   placing a cursor on the channel object.

1   5. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   receiving an indication that the highlighted channel object has been

3   selected;

4   retrieving one or more streams associated with the selected channel object;

5   and

6   decoding the one or more retrieved streams to recover a selected program.

1   6. The method of claim 5, wherein the highlighted channel object is

2   selected by depressing a particular key on a remote control unit.

1   7. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   receiving an indication to view a next search result; and

3   displaying an IPG page having included therein the next search result.

1   8. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search results are

2   provided within one or more search result IPG pages.

1   9. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more search result IPG

2   pages are received via one or more streams identified by respective packet identifiers

3   (PIDs).

1   10. The method of claim 8, wherein the each search result IPG page

2   includes only search results and no other program guide data.

1   11. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more search results are

2   provided in a particular order of relevance within the one or more search result IPG

3   pages.

1   12. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search results are

2   received in an order based on scheduled show times.

1   13. The method of claim 12, wherein the search result having a scheduled

2   show time closest to present time is provided first and the search result having a

3   scheduled show time furthest from the present time is provided last.

1   14. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search results are

2   received as video slices generated via slice-based encoding and sent from the head end.

1   15. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search results are

2   received as out-of-band data from the head end.

1   16. The method of claim 15, wherein the one or more search results are

2   received as compressed data.

1   17. The method of claim 1, wherein the program guide database includes

2   a plurality of program entries for a plurality of channels for a particular time period.

1   18. The method of claim 17, wherein program data within the program

2 guide database is indexed for ease of searching.

1   19. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search criteria

2 comprise one or more keywords.

1   20. An interactive program guide (IPG) page composed and rendered at a

2 head end and operable to support a search of a program guide database, comprising:

3   at least one guide region configurable to display a listing of a plurality of

4 channels; and

5   a search window object configurable to receive one or more criteria for the

6 search of the program guide database.

1   21. The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the search window object is

2 activated by moving a cursor over the object.

1   22. The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the search window object is

2 activated by depressing a particular key on a remote control unit.

1   23. The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the at least one guide region is

2 configurable to display a guide listing that includes a channel object corresponding to a

3 search result from the search.

1   24. The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the search window object is

2 composed as a video slice that is encoded via slice-base encoding.

1   25. The IPG page of claim 20, wherein the search window object is

2 composed as a bitmap.

1   26. A system operable to perform a search of a program guide database,

2 comprising:

3   a program guide source operative to store a program guide database;

4   a controller coupled to the program guide source and operative to

5   receive a search request that includes one or more search criteria,

6   initiate the search of the program guide database based on the one

7   or more search criteria, and

8   provide one or more search results;

9   an encoding unit coupled to the controller and operative to encode the one

10   or more search results; and

11   a cable modem coupled to the controller and the encoding unit and

12   operative to receive the search request and to transmit the one or more encoded search

13   results.

1   27. A set top terminal (STT) operable to support a search of a program

2   guide database, comprising:

3   a controller operative to receive one or more search criteria and generate a

4   request for a search with the one or more criteria;

5   a modulator coupled to the controller and operative to sent the request to a

6   head end of an information distribution system;

7   a demodulator operative to receive a modulated signal and generate a

8   transport stream;

9   a transport de-multiplexer coupled to the demodulator and operative to

10   receive and process the transport stream to provide a plurality of elementary streams; and

11   a decoder coupled to the transport de-multiplexer and operative to process

12   at least one elementary stream to retrieve one or more search results from the head end,

13   and

14   wherein the program guide database is searched at the head end.